

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Kohler et al. (US 2003/0144815).

A certified translation of the priority document is attached herewith.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Kohler et al. (US 2003/0144815).

Kohler has an effective 102(e) filing date of January 31, 2003.

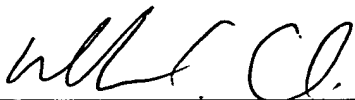
The present application claims priority to German Patent Application DE 102 45 701.8, filed on September 30, 2002, prior to the Kohler effective date. A certified copy of the German priority document has been filed. To remove Kohler as a prior art reference, a translation of the certified priority document DE 102 45 701.8 is enclosed herewith, together with a statement that the translation is accurate. See 37 CFR 1.55 (a)(4).

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 to 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) thus is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: 
William C. Gehris
Reg. No. 38,156

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940